# CONTENTS

*List of Figures* *page* viii
*Preface and Acknowledgments* xi

1 THE SECRET 1

**PART I THE NEW WORLD**

2 THE COMPLEX HUNTER/GATHERERS OF THE AMERICAN NORTHWEST 31

3 CALIFORNIA 76

4 THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST AND MESOAMERICA 121

5 PLAINS SECRET SOCIETIES 144

6 THE EASTERN WOODLANDS AND OTHERS 178

**PART II THE OLD WORLD**

7 OCEANIA 193

8 CHIEFDOMS IN CENTRAL AFRICA 239

9 WEST AFRICA 246

**PART III IMPLICATIONS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY**

10 ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS 285

11 CONCLUSIONS 336

*References* 373
*Index* 397

# FIGURES


2.1 Map of ethnic groups on the Pacific Northwest Coast *page* 32
2.2 Wolf Society dancers on the Northwest Coast 34
2.3 A new *Hamatsa* Society initiate on the Northwest Coast 37
2.4 *Hamatsa* Society guards who monitor proper behavior 40
2.5 A bear head used in Northwest Coast ceremonies 42
2.6 A diorama of an initiate possessed by a cannibal spirit 48
2.7 Wooden whistles used in secret societies on the Northwest Coast 60
2.8 *Hamatsa* Society members waiting for a feast to begin 62
2.9 Animal images in the Cave of Animals, Northwest Coast 66
3.1 Map of Californian ethnic groups 77
3.2 An earth-covered ritual structure in California 79
3.3 Bone flutes used in Californian secret societies 86
3.4 Floor plan of a Pomo ritual structure 86
3.5 Floor plan of a Patwin ritual structure 87
3.6 The inside of a Pomo ritual structure 88
3.7 Drawing by Henry Brown of the inside of a Konkow ritual structure 89
4.1 Map of the principal ethnic groups of Central and Southwestern North America 122
4.2 The ceremonial altar of the Pueblo Sian Knife secret society 135
4.3 A public performance by the Hopi Snake Society and the Antelope Society 136
5.1 An Arikara ritual structure and secret society members 150
5.2 Diagram of the participants and objects in a Hidatsa Painted Red Stick ceremony 162
5.3 Diagram of a subsequent phase of the Hidatsa Painted Red Stick ceremony 170
6.1 Ojibway *Midewiwin* secret society members "shooting" energy into an initiate 179
6.2 Sacred objects used in Ojibway *Midewiwin* secret societies 179
6.3 Pictographs on bark scrolls of Ojibway *Midewiwin* secret society rituals 181
6.4 An elevated view of an Ojibway *Midewiwin* secret society ritual structure 183

6.5 An interior view of an Ojibway *Midewiwin* secret society ritual structure 183
6.6 Wooden figurines used in Ojibway *Midewiwin* secret societies 185
6.7 Drawings of spirit connections to, or emanations from, tents of Ojibway *Midewiwin* secret society members 186
7.1 Map of the New Hebrides 198
7.2 Village layouts in the New Hebrides 206
7.3 A men's clubhouse on Ambrym Island 207
7.4 A men's clubhouse on Venua Leva Island 207
7.5 A men's clubhouse on Ambrym Island 208
7.6 Interior of a clubhouse on Malekula Island with plastered skulls 208
7.7 Plastered skulls of former secret society officials, Malekula Island 209
7.8 Houses for ancestral spirits on Malekula Island 209
7.9 A clubhouse with stone walls on Gaua Island 226
7.10 The inside of a clubhouse on Venua Lava Island 226
7.11 Interiors of two clubhouses on Espiritu Santo Island 227
7.12 Dolmen-like stone tables in a secret society dancing ground on Epi Island 228
7.13 Stone platforms for sacrificing pigs at ceremonies on Ambrym Island and Aoba Island 228
7.14 Yalo cave and pictographs on Melakula Island 230
7.15 A menhir-like standing stone marking a grave on Maevo Island 232
8.1 Map of ethnic groups of Africa mentioned in the text 240
9.1 Entrance of a *Poro* ritual structure in the bush in Sierra Leone 254
9.2 An *Igbo* ritual house, Nigeria 254
9.3 Three examples of "Leopard stones" in Liberia 255
9.4 An ornamented spoon used in *Poro* rituals by the Kra tribe in Liberia 270
9.5 A village plan in Nigeria showing the location of a ritual structure 273
9.6 A secret society ritual structure in Nigeria 274
9.7 A secret society stone pillar representing a human form in Nigeria 275
9.8 The interior of a Nigerian secret society house 276
9.9 A plan of the interior of a Nigerian ritual house 277
9.10 A photograph of the interior of a secret society ritual house in Nigeria 278
10.1 An Elk secret society dancer from the American Plains and the Upper Paleolithic "Sorcerer" image from Les Trois Frères Cave, France 296
10.2 The scribbled engravings from the Abside panel in Lascaux Cave 300
10.3 Graffiti on a modern elevator door 301
10.4 Power animals carved on pillars at Göbekli Tepe 310
10.5 A major pillar at Göbekli Tepe in the form of a human 311

10.6 Two stone masks from the Near Eastern Prepottery Neolithic 312
10.7 The main plaza at Chavín de Huántar, probably used for public performances 329
10.8 The elaborate and secluded Lanzón sculpture at Chavín de Huántar 330
10.9 A bas-relief sculpture showing a transformed man-animal at Chavín de Huántar 331